

## **EcoRA Work Group Conference Call - Nov. 16, 2000, 9:00 - 9:30 AM**

### Participants:

Bill Beckley, Ridolfi Engineers  
Steven Hughes, URS Greiner  
John Roland, Ecology  
Bob Foley, USFWS  
Randy Connolly, Spokane Tribe  
Merril Coomes, Coomes Associates  
Anne Dailey, EPA

### Draft EcoRA Comments Submitted:

The following external parties have submitted comments (comments listed in order of receipt):

- Frank Frutchey
  - Jack O'Brien
  - Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane
  - CDA Tribe
  - Shoshone Natural Resources Coalition
  - Citizens Against Rails to Trails (Rog and Toni Hardy)
  - USDOl, USFWS
  - Cities of Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls, Harrison, & Kootenai County (prepared by Merrill Coomes)
  - Asarco, Hecla & Coeur Mines, submitted by Covington & Burling, prepared by MFG in coordination with counsel
  - WA Dept. of Ecology
  - IDEQ
  - CDA Chamber of Commerce
- EPA's contractor, URSG and CH2M Hill are currently organizing the comments in an Access database to keep track of all comments submitted on the various parts of the RI/FS including the EcoRA. The database will also be used to track comment resolution.
- The database will provide a tracking system for the comment letters submitted, the specific comments raised, and how each comment is addressed. EPA anticipates sharing with commenters how their comments were handled via outputs from the database.

### Proposal for Soil and Sediment Studies:

- Discussions regarding testing of soil amendments have been continuing in the soil

amendments subgroup. The last conference call was held on 11/9 and another call will be held later today (11/16).

- General consensus reached during the 11/9 call was that the focus should be on phosphate-based soil amendments. There were no dissenters to this consensus. Rationale for this conclusion is that the phosphate-based amendments form new minerals (e.g., pyromorphite and chloropyromorphite) which bind the metals in a stable form.
- Other amendment types have less stable reaction products. For example, zeolites and iron oxyhydroxides act via adsorptive reactions which are reversible. Silica encapsulation works via physical isolation and adsorption which is not as stable as formation of a new mineral. Since there is already lots of organic matter available in the field environments, adding additional biosolids or compost is expected to provide little additional benefit.
- The areas from which sediments and soils should be collected for testing was also discussed during the 11/9 conference call. The areas for sediment and soil collection was not settled and will be the subject of future discussions.

Dailey briefly mentioned a conversation that she had with Mike Ruby, Exponent Environmental Group, who is working on evaluating metals bioavailability to quail (as an analog to American robin and woodcock). Ruby's study looks at bioavailability to quail of metal-contaminated soils and worms that have been raised in metal-contaminated soils.

#### Next Teleconference:

- Next EcoRA call will be on December 7, 2000 at 9 AM PST
- Call-in number is 206-553-4557; no pass code required
- topics of discussion will include:
  - status of the EcoRA
  - discussion of comments received
  - other topics as appropriate